

JUNE 9, 1976

KISSINGER ON HUMAN RIGHTS

ANNCR: SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER HAS URGED MEMBERS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM TO STRENGTHEN ITS MACHINERY TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS. NEWS ANALYST FRED GALVAN EXAMINES THE BROADER ASPECTS OF THE KISSINGER APPEAL.

VOICE: THAT CALL MUST BE VIEWED ON TWO LEVELS--REGIONAL AND WORLDWIDE. FOR IT EXPRESSES A CONCERN THE UNITED STATES HAS ALREADY MADE PLAIN IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES--LAST YEAR'S U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE LATEST MEETINGS OF ITS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION IN GENEVA, FOR EXAMPLE. IN ALL OF THESE, THE UNITED STATES HAS CALLED FOR A STRENGTHENING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S DEFENSES AGAINST VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS WHEREVER THEY MAY OCCUR.

ON THE REGIONAL LEVEL, DOCTOR KISSINGER SINGLED OUT CHILE AND CUBA AS COUNTRIES IN WHICH HUMAN RIGHTS ARE SYSTEMATICALLY VIOLATED. HE TOOK AS HIS BASIS TWO REPORTS PREPARED BY THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES GENERAL ASSEMBLY--THE MEETING NOW GOING ON IN SANTIAGO, CHILE. IN THE CASE OF CHILEAN VIOLATIONS, HE SAID THE CONTINUATION OF REPRESSION AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY ITS MILITARY JUNTA AGAINST OPPOSITION ELEMENTS COULD NOT BUT IMPAIR UNITED STATES RELATIONS WITH IT. HE ACKNOWLEDGED, HOWEVER, THAT CHILE--UNLIKE CUBA--HAD COOPERATED WITH THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION IN ITS INVESTIGATION OF CONDITIONS IN THE SOUTH AMERICAN REPUBLIC. (OPT) AND HE URGED THE O.A.S. GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO BROADEN AND STRENGTHEN THE

COMMISSION'S POWERS TO INVESTIGATE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THIS HEMISPHERE.(END OPT)

BEHIND THE KISSINGER APPEAL IS THE LONG TRADITION OF UNITED STATES SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. THAT TRADITIONAL ATTITUDE HAS BEEN EXPRESSED OFTEN BY THE PRESIDENT, THE SECRETARY OF STATE, THE CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS OF BOTH MAJOR PARTIES, FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE DEPLORED THE CURRENT SERIES OF TRIALS IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AGAINST PROMINENT DISSIDENTS--RANGING FROM AN EX-PRESIDENT TO A RESPECTED POET. THEY HAVE ALSO EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN OVER REPORTED REPRESSION OF OPPOSITION ELEMENTS IN INDIA AND THE PHILIPPINES. THE AMERICAN PRESS AND PUBLIC HAVE JOINED CONGRESS IN CONDEMNING SOVIET REPRESSION OF DISSIDENTS AND RESTRICTIONS ON EMIGRATION. THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED VIEW IN THIS COUNTRY, IS THAT SUCH VIOLATIONS IN EAST EUROPE FLOUT THE SIGNED PLEDGE OF ITS GOVERNMENTS, TO HONOR HUMAN RIGHTS UNDER THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT ON EUROPEAN SECURITY.

SPEAKING IN SANTIAGO, DOCTOR KISSINGER MADE THE POINT THAT--IN HIS WORDS--"RESPECT FOR THE RIGHTS OF MAN IS WRITTEN INTO THE FOUNDING DOCUMENTS OF EVERY NATION OF THIS HEMISPHERE." IF THAT CONCEPT IS NOT TO DEGENERATE INTO EMPTY RHETORIC, HE IMPLIED, "WE IN THE AMERICAS MUST INCREASE OUR SUPPORT FOR THE PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND HUMAN DIGNITY."

THOSE WORDS CAME FROM A MAN WHOSE FAMILY EMIGRATED TO THE UNITED STATES TO ESCAPE HITLER'S GERMANY. MANY IN HIS AUDIENCE WERE DESCENDANTS OF OTHER IMMIGRANTS FLEEING FROM POLITICAL OPPRESSION IN THEIR HOMELANDS IN EASTERN AND WESTERN EUROPE.

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